



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

HUGH MORRISON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

G. M. PAWSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

OF THE

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON

FOR THE YEAR 1972



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FOR THE YEAR 1972

The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses,
THE BOROUGH OF TAUNTON,

Public Health Department,
Chadwick House,
11 Middle Street,
Taunton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1972 which is drawn up in accordance with the instructions of the Department of Health and Social Security.

The health record of the year in Taunton has been good, with no major epidemics to give rise to concern. Infectious diseases have now reached a very low level of prevalence, and the problems which they cause to a health department relate more to the risks of infection attendant on foreign travel than on the occurrence of these diseases in the community. The speed and ease of jet air travel, in particular, has increased the risk of the importation of infectious diseases prevalent in tropical and sub-tropical areas of the world, such as smallpox and cholera, and increased vigilance is necessary to guard against this danger. Problems also arise in connection with the protection by immunising procedures of those of our own people who travel far more extensively and in far greater numbers than they used to do even a few years ago.

Comment is made on the vital statistics of the Borough for the year 1972, and some emendations of various paragraphs in the report have been carried out. In general, the provision of health services has not altered substantially in the past year or two and no major re-writing of my portion of the Report has been undertaken. Mr. Pawson contributes a full and interesting account of the work of the Public Health Inspecting staff. Last year in referring to his account of the efforts which were being made to lessen the nuisance and inconvenience caused by noise, I commented upon the excessive noise associated with vehicular traffic on our streets. This has, if anything, got worse. We are told that the problems of reducing noise, especially noise associated with heavy lorries, are complex and difficult, and that the enforcement of lower noise levels is a formidable task, but it seems to me that those responsible for this blight on society are not trying hard enough.

The prospect of having a District General Hospital in being and in operation in this part of Somerset seems to recede ever farther into the future. This is very frustrating, and the temptation to bemoan our ill-fortune in this respect as compared with the way things have progressed in some other areas of the West Country is strong. However, it has to be realised that immense sums of money are involved, and some order of priority of need has to be preserved in the allocation of resources which are not limitless. Meantime devoted work is being done by the staffs of our existing hospitals which have had many improvements

carried out over the years. It would be a pity if the idea gained credence that the standard of care of the sick in this area was anything but excellent. Nobody living in the Taunton district need fear that, if they fall ill, their chances of recovery are likely to be less good than they would be anywhere else in the country.

Far-reaching changes will shortly take place in the organization of preventive and curative health work in this as in all other areas of the country. As a result of local government re-organization the Borough of Taunton will form part of the larger district of Taunton Deane which will have a population of more than double that of the present Borough. Matters of environmental health will become the responsibility of the new District Council, and at the official level will be under the control of an Environmental Health Officer. It gives me pleasure and satisfaction to know that Mr. Pawson, the present Chief Public Health Inspector of the Borough has been selected to fill this important post. I have been closely in touch with his work over many years and I have no doubt that he will carry out the duties of his new position with ability and distinction.

The National Health Service also is to be re-organised, and integration will take place of the three branches whose personnel have up to now tended sometimes to pursue divergent or isolationist lines: General Practitioners, Hospital Medical Staff and Public Health officers. It is believed that this will result in an improved service to the community and to the individual patient.

A casualty of the new order of things will be the Medical Officer of Health. This honoured office will disappear, after a period of roughly a hundred years, during which time many doctors have devoted their lives to the duties of Medical Officer of Health, with results to the benefit of the community that are acknowledged by all. Those medical men who will be continuing with Public Health work, and those who will be taking up a career in this field, will enter the National Health Service as Community Physicians. Their services will still be available to advise Local Authorities on matters in which medical expertise is required. While one may feel legitimate pride and satisfaction in the good work done by Medical Officers of Health in the past, the time has now come to look to the future, and there is reason to believe that great benefits to the health of the community in general, and to those individuals who are afflicted with illness, will result from the unification of the National Health Service.

I wish again to express appreciation of the valuable help I have received during the year from the Chairman and Members of the Health and Welfare Committee, from Dr. Thomson who acts as my deputy when the occasion arises, and from fellow officials of the Council.

I am, Yours faithfully,
HUGH MORRISON,
Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1972

GENERAL STATISTICS

Acreage of Borough	..	..	..	..	..	2,581
Population (estimated by Registrar General, mid-year)	..					38,300
Number of inhabited houses and flats (separately assessed)						12,404
Rateable value at the end of 1972	..	..	..	..		£1,813,685
Product of a 1p. rate for 1972/73	..	..	..	..		£17,312

VITAL STATISTICS

It should be pointed out that in the figures which follow the standardisation of the rate for births and deaths allows for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, and is obtained by multiplying the crude rate by a comparability factor for the district furnished by the Registrar General. This enables comparison to be made with the figures for the country as a whole, or with those for other districts.

1. Births.

(a) Live Births

					<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	255	247	502
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	17	16	33
Total	..	..	..		272	263	545
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..			14.0
Standardised Birth Rate:—							
Taunton	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.7
England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.8
Percentage illegitimate of total live births	..	..	..				6.0

(b) Still births

Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Rate per 1,000 live and still births:—							
Taunton	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.0
England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.0
Total live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	545	

2. Deaths.

(a)	Total deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	476	
	Death rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	..		12.4
	Standardised Death Rate :—								
	Taunton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.3
	England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.1
(b)	Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year) :—								
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	
	Infant Deaths per 1,000 live births :—								
	Taunton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.0
	England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.0
	Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..						6.0
	Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..						30.0
	Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)								4.0
	Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.0
	Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births)				..	..	..		20.0

Causes of Infant Deaths

Cause of Death	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Totals under 1 year
Congenital anomalies	1	1	2
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. ..	—	1	1
Ill-defined symptoms and conditions	1	—	1
Totals	2	2	4

(c)	Maternal Mortality							
	Total Maternal Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(d)	Deaths from Cancer							
	Cancer of the lung	..	..	Males	..			16
				Females	..			4
				Total	..	..		20
	Cancer in all other situations	..		Males	..			20
				Females	..			36
				Total	..	..		56

Number of deaths from cancer of lung—England and Wales—

1968	..	28,826
1969	..	29,768
1970	..	30,281
1971	..	30,746
1972	..	31,649

Comment on Vital Statistics

There has been a slight decrease in the recorded population of the Borough, from 38,640 to 38,300.

As is usual in an area of this character, the standardised Birth and Death Rates were rather lower than those of England and Wales as a whole, the Birth Rate marginally and the Death Rate to a more significant degree. The Infant Mortality Rate, at 7 per 1,000 live births, was very low, the figure for the whole country being 17. The illegitimacy rate fell to 6 per cent, so that the percentages in the past three years have been 11, 8, 6. Perhaps it is rather too much to hope that this progression will be extended to infinity.

Heart and blood vessel disease were as usual the most frequent cause of death, with coronary thrombosis standing out as the commonest cause of all. Twenty people died of cancer of the lung, four fewer than in the past year, but the national figures continue to rise, and it will be seen from the table that in 1972 over 31,000 deaths were caused by this disease. Eleven people died from accidents, four of these deaths being caused by motor vehicles. One death was recorded from pulmonary tuberculosis. This is becoming a rare event.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS

<i>Cause of Death</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	..		1	—	1
Meningococcal infection	..	..	..	—	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..		—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	..	..		1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	..	..		1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	3	3	6
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	..	..	..	5	4	9
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	16	4	20
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	—	14	14
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	—	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	..	..	..	2	—	2
Leukaemia	..	..	..	1	1	2

Other malignant neoplasms	..	..	..	7	8	15
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	..	..	..	2	1	3
Diabetes mellitus	..	..	..	4	3	7
Other endocrine etc., diseases	..	..	..	—	1	1
Anaemias	..	..	..	1	1	2
Mental disorders	..	..	..	—	1	1
Multiple sclerosis	..	..	..	—	2	2
Other diseases of nervous system	..	..	..	3	2	5
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	..	..	..	1	4	5
Hypertensive disease	..	..	..	4	5	9
Ischaemic heart disease	..	..	..	72	53	125
Other forms of heart disease	..	..	..	5	13	18
Cerebrovascular disease	..	..	..	25	40	65
Other diseases of circulatory system	..	..	..	10	22	32
Influenza	..	..	..	—	2	2
Pneumonia	..	..	..	23	27	50
Bronchitis and emphysema	..	..	..	15	4	19
Asthma	..	..	..	—	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	1	2	3
Peptic ulcer	..	..	..	3	1	4
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	..	..	..	—	3	3
Cirrhosis of liver	..	..	..	1	—	1
Other diseases of digestive system	..	..	..	—	3	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	1	—	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	..	..	..	1	4	5
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	..	..	..	—	1	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	..	..	..	—	1	1
Congenital anomalies	..	..	..	1	3	4
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	..	..	..	—	1	1
Illdefined symptoms and conditions	..	..	..	—	9	9
Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	3	1	4
All other accidents	..	..	..	5	2	7
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	..	..	..	1	1	2

HEALTH EDUCATION

Medical staff again gave talks to various groups on drugs and sex problems. The Public Health Inspectors continued with their education in food hygiene and handling for caterers and people employed in the food trade. Health Visitors held regular classes, each of several sessions, on mothercraft throughout the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was a sharp outbreak of measles towards the end of the year. Only a few other cases of infectious disease were notified. The Food Poisoning cases were due to salmonella infection.

Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	139
Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Whooping cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Infective jaundice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Food poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

TUBERCULOSIS

The incidence of this infection remains very low. Once again a table showing the change that has occurred since forty years ago is inserted to point the contrast between then and now.

				<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-pulmonary</i>
1972	{ New cases notified during 1972	..		4	2
	{ Deaths during 1972	..	..	1	—
1932	{ New cases notified in 1932	..	..	31	10
	{ Deaths during 1932	..	..	15	3

VENEREAL DISEASE

A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts. These conditions which had, for some years, become rather uncommon in the district have been latterly showing a marked increase in prevalence and this is in accordance with experience over the country as a whole.

Gonorrhea, one of the Venereal Diseases, is now the second most common infectious disease in the country, measles being the commonest, and when measles is brought under control by immunisation, gonorrhea is likely to take pride of place.

IMMUNISATION

It is considered that this form of protection against infectious disease is one of the most important activities in the field of preventive medicine, and for this reason an up-to-date account of the procedures recommended and their timing is given in the table below. Notes on the various diseases against which the procedure is aimed were set out in the Annual Report for 1970 and it is thought unnecessary to repeat them on this occasion. Arrangements for carrying out immunisation of children and young people are channelled through the County Council Computer which ensures that each individual is summoned at the appropriate time. Nearly all the actual immunising is done at sessions run by the family doctors in their surgeries. The percentage of children immunised in this area is now very high, but of course, this being a free country, it is still open to parents to neglect to have this matter seen to or to refuse to have anything to do with it. This happens relatively seldom, but we are anxious that it should not happen at all because it is most important, for the individual and for the community at large, that the percentage of people immunised against these diseases, which formerly were responsible for so much misery and death, should be maintained at the highest possible level.

Recommended procedures

<i>Age</i>	<i>Vaccine</i>
4 months	First diphtheria/whooping cough/tetanus and oral polio vaccine.
6 months	Second diphtheria/whooping cough/tetanus and oral polio vaccine.
12 months	Third diphtheria/whooping cough/tetanus and oral polio vaccine.
13 months — 2 years	Measles vaccination.
4½ years	Diphtheria/tetanus (no whooping cough) and oral polio vaccine.
Over 11 years	B.C.G.
11 — 13 years	German measles immunisation (girls only).
14½ years	Oral polio vaccine. Tetanus toxoid.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

**Administered in Taunton Municipal Borough
by the Somerset County Council**

Health Visiting Service

There were 8 Health Visitors engaged on work in the Borough during 1972, supervised generally by the Medical Officer of Health for Taunton in the capacity of Area Medical Officer of Health, and their activities included:—

Home Visiting of Children

Owing to a change of recording, figures regarding the number of cases dealt with are not available.

Ante-natal Visits

During the year the scheme was continued whereby expectant mothers booked for hospital confinement were visited and advised by the Health Visitors in co-operation with the Domiciliary Midwives.

School Medical Inspection

Each Health Visitor visits the schools in her area to assist the School Medical Officer with routine medical inspection and immunisation. When necessary she carries out hygiene surveys in the schools. Every child now has an annual eye test.

School Children

Visits are paid to children at the request of the doctor following on the work of the school medical inspections.

Old People

Special visits are paid to old people, as requested by doctors, medical social workers, welfare officers, etc.

Other visits

Amongst other matters referred to and dealt with by the Health Visitors are problems of handicapped persons, infectious diseases, difficult school conditions, etc. Visiting of tuberculosis cases and other chest conditions is carried out by a Health Visitor specialising in this work. The work of the Health Visitors in the Mental Health field has increased considerably since the coming into operation of the Mental Health Act, 1959.

Child Welfare Centres

Child Welfare Clinics at which mothers of young children can have the benefit of advice on health and medical matters are still being carried on in the traditional way in clinic premises, but the direction of development here is that an increasing number of

family doctors are undertaking this work for patients of their own practices in their surgeries or in health centres as these become available. This trend has been made possible by the attachment of Health Visitors to individual practices. An increasing amount of attention is being given to the study of normal and abnormal development of the child during the years of infancy and early childhood.

Numbers of individual children who attended were as follows:

537 attended Tower Lane on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

195 attended All Saints' Church Hall, Halcon on Wednesday afternoons.

360 attended St. Peter's Church Hall, Priorswood, on Friday afternoons.

169 attended Trident Hall, Galmington on Monday afternoons.

Total attendances of children under 5 years of age were 5976 which was a decrease of 3327 on the previous year.

Liaison with Family Doctors

The scheme of Health Visitor and District Nurse attachment to general practices in the Borough, as outlined in the report for 1965, was brought into full operation in 1966, and is working very well indeed.

Ante-natal Clinics

The blood test clinic for ante-natal patients has been discontinued. Facilities for this service are now available at the family doctors' surgeries and at Musgrove Park Hospital.

The Ante-natal Clinic is staffed fortnightly on Mondays by domiciliary midwives who help and advise expectant mothers booked for Wellington Maternity Home or for domiciliary confinement.

Mothercraft Classes

These are held weekly in the Health Centre with a short break between each series of seven talks.

Classes for relaxation exercises and talks by a Doctor, a Health Visitor or a Midwife are given each time.

There is an average attendance of 30-36: slightly higher during the winter months. It is necessary to divide the classes into two groups, the talks being given to each group in turn while the other group is having relaxation exercises. During 1972, 105 women attended and the total number of attendances was 583.

In addition, 164 women attended doctors' surgeries for the same purpose, and made a total of 977 attendances.

Domiciliary Midwifery and Nursing

A large number of midwifery and nursing visits were made to patients in their own homes during the year by domiciliary midwives and nurses. These included a large number of special visits to old people. The demands of domiciliary nursing are increasing because of the shortage of hospital beds and the more intensive follow-up visiting demanded by the practice of earlier discharge from hospital.

Premature Baby Service

In addition to the arrangements for the care of full-term babies a special service is provided for premature infants. If there is a risk that a child will be born after less than 37 or 38 weeks gestation, arrangements are made for the admission of the expectant mother to Musgrove Park Hospital where special facilities are available and special equipment is provided where necessary.

Small or premature babies unsuitable for nursing at home are admitted to that Unit from the district and a special Oxygenaire incubator is sent by ambulance to collect them.

If the premature babies at home can be nursed there, the district midwife can obtain special equipment for this and advice, if required, from the Area Nursing Officer who follows up all premature births.

During 1972, 36 premature infants were born in hospital of whom 1 died. None were born at home.

Distribution of Welfare Foods

National dried milk, orange juice and cod liver oil for infants and vitamin tablets for expectant mothers, are distributed at the Welfare Centres.

Certain proprietary brands of dried milk, babies' cereals and vitamin C syrups are sold at approximately cost price to mothers and children who attend the Clinics.

Dental Clinic, Tower Lane

The treatment given to school children during the year ended 31st December, 1972 was as follows:

Number Inspected	Number requiring Treatment	Number treated	Extractions		Fillings		Other Treatment (Dentures, Crowns, Orthodontics, X-rays, etc.)
			Decid.	Perm.	Decid.	Perm.	
10,897	6,427	3,306	1,620	603	2,301	4,851	1,036

The treatment given to expectant and nursing mothers and to pre-school children is shown below.

					<i>Adults</i>	<i>Pre-School Children</i>
1.	Number of cases inspected	..	..	..	17	208
2.	Number found to require treatment	..	..		16	111
3.	Number of cases treated	..	..	..	17	151
4.	Number of attendances	..	..	..	59	303
5.	Dentures provided	..	..	..	6	—

The above figures include a number of cases attending the Clinic from the areas surrounding Taunton Borough.

Home Help Service

This service has now been transferred to the Department of Social Services, and detailed figures of the number of cases helped and the reason for help in individual cases are not available for 1972. The very valuable work continues though the method of administration has changed.

Day Nursery

This is another service which, together with the supervision of playgroups and child minders, has passed to the Social Services Department. There is good liaison with the new department so that matters of health and hygiene are kept to the fore.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The Women’s Royal Voluntary Service continue to organise and provide these meals for patients in the Borough. During 1972 125–130 people received two meals each per week and the total number of meals delivered during the year was 12,692. It has still not been possible to find a source for a third delivery day.

Gratitude should be expressed to the kitchen staff of Musgrove Park Hospital and to the ladies who distribute the meals. Without their help there would be no service.

WELFARE SERVICES BY VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS

The British Red Cross Society maintain a Loan Department in the Borough which does most useful work in the distribution of aids to home nursing, which are hired out to patients who can benefit from this help. The Society would welcome volunteers to assist with this work.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade run car outings for disabled persons throughout the summer months which enable patients who may seldom leave the confines of their own homes to spend pleasant and sociable afternoons in various beauty spots in the country side surrounding Taunton. Volunteer car drivers would also be welcome to help with this activity.

The Council of Social Services is proving itself to be a valuable asset to the town, and I should like again to thank Miss Duncan, the energetic Secretary, for help with a number of matters.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The fortnightly service was operated throughout the year at Belvedere Road Car Park.

The reports on examinations were as follows:

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total number examined	473	672	1,145
Abnormalities detected			
Active pulmonary tuberculosis	1	—	1
Healed pulmonary tuberculosis	3	2	5
Bronchial carcinoma	1	—	1
Goitre	—	1	1
Sarcoidosis	1	—	1
Congenital cardiac lesion	—	1	1
Acquired cardiac lesion	1	3	4
Bronchiectasis	1	—	1
Bacterial and virus infections of the lungs..	2	1	3
Bronchitis and emphysema	1	—	1
Abnormality of the Diaphragm	1	1	2
Dorsal scoliosis	—	1	1
Pleural thickening	3	2	5

PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

An account has been given in a previous report of the sort of circumstances which lead to the application for compulsory powers of removal of a person from their home to a hospital or institution and this need not be repeated, except that one would wish to emphasise that every other means of dealing with these difficult cases is tried before making use of the legal procedure as a last resort. It was not necessary to invoke this procedure during the year.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The main Ambulance Station and Control for South-West Somerset is situated at Parkfield Drive, Taunton. The Ambulance Station serves a very wide area and at 31st December, 1972 the establishment of vehicles and staff was as follows:

Vehicles—8 Ambulances
 9 Sitting-case Ambulances

Staff— 6 Sub-officers
 4 Leading Ambulance men
 23 Ambulancemen
 1 Trainee

	<i>Patients carried</i>	<i>Mileage run during 1972</i>
Ambulances	13,399	120,525
Sitting-case ambulances	22,606	148,367

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer for the facts mentioned in this paragraph and also for those in the following section on refuse disposal.

The following works are in progress—

Priory Stormwater Treatment Station	£226,000
Eastern Relief Sewer Stage 1	£157,000
Central Relief Sewer Stage 1	£256,000

Future proposals—

Improvements to Ham Sewage Works, Primary, Secondary, Tertiary Stages	£940,000
Eastern Relief Stages 2 and 3	£195,000
Central Relief Sewer Stage 2	£344,000
Resewering of the Borough—Various Radials and Sewers	£1,000,000

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Tipping was commenced on the new Priorswood Tip in January by both this Council and the Taunton R.D.C.

The Borough Council scheme for paper sacks has not been extended since 1971.

The estimated quantity of refuse tipped by the Borough Council each week is 1,900 cubic metres and this appears to be increasing continually.

WATER SUPPLY

I should like to thank the Chief Engineer to the West Somerset Water Board, Mr. J. Moat, for the details of water supplies in this district which follow :

The Taunton Division of the West Somerset Water Board in addition to supplying the Borough provides supplies for the Rural District of Taunton and the Urban and Rural Districts of Wellington.

Most of the water comes from Clatworthy Reservoir in the Brendon Hills, but some is still obtained from gathering grounds on the Blackdowns and from the River Otter. All catchment areas are inspected and supervised and the Board's chemist takes regular samples for chemical and bacteriological examination. The water is filtered and chlorinated before distribution. The quality is good as is shown by the following results of samples taken independently by the Borough Health Department.

Satisfactory
197

Unsatisfactory
0

Samples recorded as unsatisfactory are immediately investigated and any necessary action taken to set the trouble to rights.

The water is not fluoridated.

HOUSING

I am indebted to the Borough Architect and the Housing Manager for the following information :

In the period between the end of the last war and the end of 1972, the number of houses erected by the Borough, acting as Local Authority, was 3,354 and in the same period the number provided by private enterprise was 1,604.

Of the post-war houses built by the Council the majority were three-bedroomed houses, although a substantial number of two-bedroomed houses, two-bedroomed flats, one-bedroomed flats and two-bedroomed temporary bungalows had also been erected.

50 houses and flats were completed for the Council during 1972 and 64 were in course of erection. In the same period 120 houses were built by private enterprise and 76 were in course of erection. 28 old peoples' dwellings were completed during the period.

No Clearance Areas were declared, but a number of houses were dealt with individually. Details of these are given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of the report.

The number of applicants on the waiting list for Council houses at the end of the year was 549, and the number of applications for Old Peoples' Dwellings was 90.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

A new scale of Improvement Grants was introduced in August 1969 under the Housing Act 1969 to improve the amounts payable to owners.

Number of applications and houses dealt with during year:

	Received		Approved	
	Applications	No. of Dwellings	Applications	No. of Dwellings
1. Improvement Grants	107	109	143	149
2. Standard Grants	7	7	30	30
3. Special Grants	—	—	—	—

STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Medical examinations carried out by the Department in connection with new appointments to the Council's staff, and in connection with the Superannuation Scheme and the Workmen's Sickness Benefit Regulations were as follows:

	<i>Department</i>						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Architect	6	3	9
Engineer	16	2	18
Housing	2	4	6
Library	—	3	3
Town Clerk	1	1	2
Treasurer	6	4	10
Health	2	1	3
							33	18	51

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the year 1972

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I present my report for 1972. This has been a time of uneventful but steady progress in the whole of the environmental field for which we are responsible. Meat inspection which accounts for much of the total time has been one of our major commitments. It remains to be seen what will be the eventual outcome as regards hygiene standards in slaughter-houses and variations in the code of meat inspection which will ensue as a result of joining the E.E.C. All food premises are receiving several visits each year, and this includes mobile shops and market stalls.

The systematic inspection of the older artisan type of terraced house has continued during 1972 when over two hundred such houses were dealt with so as to effect repairs and provide the basic amenities through the Improvement Grant scheme. This is very demanding work as many of the visits have to be made outside normal office hours, but the overall results fully justify this.

Messrs. L. G. Hopes and G. W. Mathews have continued in their roles in the field of health education by lecturing both at the local technical college and hospitals to several different types of classes. Other public health inspectors have given talks on a limited scale.

Following the usual practice of allowing staff to benefit from post graduate teaching the following courses have been attended: Mr. Hopes—Advanced course on meat and poultry inspection at Blackpool, Mr. Mathews—Food Microbiology at Bath, Miss Cullimore—Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act at Lancaster, and Mr. Yates—Control of Pollution at Bath. In addition Mr. G. N. Stephens has been allowed time off each week to attend classes for the final D.M.A. examination.

There have been more staff changes during the year than for some time past. Mr. Brown, our Meat Inspector who had been with us for nearly two years, left to take up a similar appointment with the Spalding Rural District Council, and he was succeeded

in May by Mr. G. Coe who came from Hinckley Rural District Council. Mrs. F. A. Underhill, who had been with the Department as a Trainee since 1967 passed her qualifying examination in May and five months later accepted an appointment with the Rural District Council at Wellington. In November our Pest Control Operative—Mr. L. Wood—retired after nearly ten years' service, and I would like to place on record my very sincere appreciation of all the excellent work which he always carried out in the most conscientious and cheerful manner. He set a very high standard for work in this field, and at the time of writing we have been unable to fill this vacancy due to lack of suitable applicants of the right calibre.

For some time the question of local government re-organisation has clouded the horizon with uncertainty as to the future; but in November the government finally made known the composition of the districts, which in our case joined us to the Taunton Rural District and the two Wellington districts. This, as far as the environmental health functions are concerned has produced a compact and well balanced district; and we look forward to the future when we shall join our colleagues in those districts.

In conclusion I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Chairman and members of the Health and Welfare Committee, the Medical Officer of Health and all members of the staff for their unfailing co-operation and kindness at all times.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

G. M. PAWSON,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing and General Sanitary Work

Education and General Community Work									
Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	251
Houses inspected under the Housing and Rent Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	385
Houses inspected under the Taunton Corporation Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Re-inspections under the above Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,724
Houses in Multiple Occupation inspected and re-visited	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	460
Miscellaneous housing inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Smoke observations, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66
Moveable dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Dealers in old metal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Infectious diseases and disinfections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Drainage, in connection with	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	605
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	525
Hairdressers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Infested or Verminous premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	228
Interviews	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	699
Meteorological Readings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	362
Noise, in connection with	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	426
Offensive trades	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Animal nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises—Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	116
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises—Re-visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	499
Outworkers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Pet Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Cinemas and Places of Entertainment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Refuse collection and disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Rag Flock premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Rodent Control (excluding visits by Rodent Operator)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	223
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Shops (Shops Acts)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Swimming Baths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Water Sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	233
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	109
Miscellaneous visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	302
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,570

Complaints

During the year 904 complaints were received at the Health Department having reference to the following matters:

Housing conditions	..	..	62
Drainage	..	..	115
Rats	..	..	164
Mice	..	..	184
Insect Pests	..	..	132
Unsound food	..	..	122
Miscellaneous	..	..	125

The only significant changes from the previous year's figures are those relating to rodents which show a 30% increase, whilst those for insect pests have almost halved due probably to the great decrease in the number of wasps' nests which were reported. Otherwise the figures are little changed from 1971.

Housing Repairs

The work of effecting repairs although not quite on the scale of the immediate post war years is still a very important function of the Public Health Inspectorate. At one time tenants who made specific complaints to the Health Department were the main source of information as to the state of disrepair of the stock of houses; but nowadays nearly all the defects are brought to light during the annual survey of particular areas of the town when the question of improvements is also considered. For the most part repairs are enforced by informal action under the Public Health Acts, and only in exceptional cases has it been found necessary to make use of our statutory powers under these or the Housing Acts.

During the year 62 complaints were received, but a great number of defects were found in the course of the survey. The total number of individual items which received attention was 978 which represents a decrease of about 15% over the previous year's figures. Altogether about 1,100 inspections and visits were made in connection with this work.

Details of the work carried out is as follows:—

Drains cleared	65
Drains or sewers renewed or repaired	5
New drains provided	64
Sewers cleared	40
Inspection chambers built	53
Inspection chambers—new covers provided	4
New gullies provided	4
Yard surfaces renewed or repaired	2
Eaves gutters renewed	4
Eaves gutters repaired	3
Rainwater pipes renewed or repaired	3
Waterclosets provided	84
W.C. pans renewed	4
W.C. flushing cisterns provided	37
Flush pipes repaired	3
Roofs renewed	2
Roofs repaired	28
Chimney stacks rebuilt	1
Chimney stacks repaired	5
Chimneys—flashings renewed	1
External walls repaired	15
Ceilings renewed or repaired	30
Wall rendering renewed or repaired	29
Floors renewed	12
Floors repaired	5
Skirting boards renewed	14
Dampness abated	48
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	5
Doors renewed or repaired	7

New windows provided	..	..	..	..	..	12
Windows repaired	..	..	..	..	..	23
Window sill renewed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	7
Window lintels renewed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	6
Windows—sash cords provided	..	..	..	..	..	31
Natural lighting improved	..	..	..	..	..	3
Ventilation improved	..	..	..	..	..	2
Water service pipes renewed	..	..	..	..	..	1
Water heating systems installed	..	..	..	..	..	63
Bath or shower provided	..	..	..	..	..	70
Wash-hand basins provided	..	..	..	..	..	63
Kitchen sinks provided	..	..	..	..	..	73
Kitchen sinks—waste pipes renewed	..	..	..	..	..	3
Draining Boards provided	..	..	..	..	..	19
Staircases repaired	..	..	..	..	..	2
Hand rails repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ventilated food cupboards provided	..	..	..	..	..	3
Electric services repaired	..	..	..	..	..	2
Boundary fences renewed	..	..	..	..	..	2
Rooms re-decorated	..	..	..	..	..	15
Total						978

HOUSING ACTS

This has been the quietest year for a very long time as far as action under the Housing Acts is concerned, as no Clearance Areas were declared or Demolition or Closing Orders made. The only action was to determine two Closing Orders which had been made with regard to parts of buildings. This clearly reflects the current state of affairs when any property however dilapidated can command a highly inflated price from purchasers who are usually prepared to bring such premises up to a relatively high standard regardless of cost.

Four houses in two areas were demolished to make way for road widening or commercial development.

TAUNTON CORPORATION ACT 1931

Section 94 of this Act can be invoked where it would appear that the construction of any new building would materially affect the ventilation or conduce to make other adjacent buildings unfit for human habitation or dangerous or injurious to health. Today it is rarely found necessary to make use of these powers as generally there are more effective means of dealing with such problems as are likely to arise in the Building Regulations. However twelve visits were made during the year in connection with this aspect of the Act; and in each case the problems were resolved by informal discussion with the builder or architect at a site meeting.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

This type of house if of an adequate standard and properly managed provides a very useful type of accommodation for a certain sector of the community. For the most part such houses are to be found in the old larger victorian properties where the large and numerous rooms lend themselves most readily for letting to single persons or childless married couples.

In Taunton each new house in multiple accommodation receives a very thorough and detailed inspection, as a result of which amenities are provided in accordance with the recognised standards and all necessary repairs etc. are dealt with. Thereafter there is a regular annual inspection to ensure that the premises are properly maintained and managed.

At the present time there are 203 such premises with 660 separate lettings; and during the year 460 inspections and visits were made. As a consequence the following matters which were mostly of a minor character were remedied by informal action. It will be seen that a fair proportion of the items deal with dampness and defective walls, and the total of 210 is almost a 100% increase over the previous year.

Summary of work carried out—Houses in Multiple Occupation

External—

Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Walls repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Choked drains cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Yard paving repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Waterclosets repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Drainage repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

Internal—

Walls repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Ceilings repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Floors repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Doors repaired or renewed..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Windows repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Staircases repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Rooms redecorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Dampness abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Lighting and/or ventilation improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Larders repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
New ventilated larders provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Electric fittings repaired or provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Heating installations provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Hot water supply repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Hot water supply provided..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Cold water supply repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

Wash hand basins repaired or renewed	5
Sink and/or draining board renewed	6
Cooking facilities provided or improved	4
Additional W.C.'s provided	1
Additional bathrooms provided	1
Baths renewed or repaired	1
Other Items—	
Units of accommodation ceased to be used for multiple- occupation	7
Number of cases of overcrowding reduced	1
<hr/>	
Total	220
<hr/>	

RENT ACT, 1957

No Certificates of Disrepair were issued.

HOUSING ACT, 1969 — Section 45(2)

This legislation which became effective about three years ago got off to a very slow start, but now landlords are making more and more use of it. The general intent is that they are able to obtain an increase of rent in respect of those houses where the Local Authority issue Qualification Certificates—having satisfied themselves that such houses are in a good state of repair and have the standard amenities.

During the year 56 applications were received, and 25 Qualification Certificates were issued. In addition 7 provisional Certificates were issued.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 — Section 24

This Section empowers the Local Authority to maintain certain sewers which before the passing of the Act were the responsibility of the owners. During the year 52 such sewers were dealt with by the Department.

HOUSING SURVEY

This scheme of systematic housing inspection which was initiated in 1965 continued during 1972, when two areas comprising 98 houses in the northern part of the town and 122 in the southern part were dealt with. All the houses were at least fifty years old, and were mainly of the artisan type. Considerable difficulty was encountered in gaining admission to some of the houses, as it was found that in quite a few instances all the occupants were out at work during the day; and of the total of approximately 1,300 inspections carried out at least 20% were made outside normal office hours.

The main objectives of the survey were to obtain the following details :—

1. Whether the houses were owner-occupied or tenanted.
2. The general state of repair.
3. The provision or lack of standard amenities.
4. The general interest of owners or tenants in Improvement Grants, and the main reasons where applicable for not wishing to take advantage of such grants.
5. The feasibility of declaring an Improvement Area.

The northern area comprised houses in Cyril Street West, Leslie Avenue and Railway Street ; and in the southern area Church Street, Eastleigh Road, Gordon Road, Queen Street and Queen's Terrace. In the first area 86 (87%) houses were owner-occupied, and in the other 91 (75%) which represents an overall percentage of 80 which is an increase of 11% when compared with surveys in previous years, and would confirm the view that an ever increasing number of people are buying their own homes.

It was found that in the northern area the average weekly rent was £2.11 and in the other £3.44 which gave an overall average of £2.50 for the two areas. This represents only a very slight rise over the previous year's figures, but it is anticipated that with the advent of the Rent Rebate scheme there will be a sharp rise in the future.

As past experience has shown the owner-occupied houses were almost entirely in a satisfactory state of repair, and even with the tenanted ones there was only one which needed repairs besides 14 others which needed only minor attention. In all instances the necessary work was carried out by informal action.

Of the owner-occupied houses 19 lacked all or most of the Standard Amenities, and in ten instances the owners expressed an interest in an Improvement Grant. The remaining nine owners felt that they did not wish to have any further financial commitment or were elderly and did not relish any disturbance. In the tenanted houses sixteen (40%) lacked all or most of the Standard Amenities, and eleven tenants stated that they wished for the amenities to be provided. One tenant made a formal application to the council for this purpose. As with the other group it was mainly a financial problem which caused the others to refrain from expressing an interest in the improvements.

It is encouraging to note that mainly through the efforts of the Public Health Inspectors who have spent a considerable amount of time in explaining the whole scheme to both landlords and tenants that in these two areas fifty-nine houses have been or are in the process of being improved by way of grants. Bearing in mind this very satisfactory trend it is not recommended that an Improvement Area be declared.

ANALYSIS OF HOUSING SURVEY 1972

	Total No. of all Houses	Houses Vacant	OWNER OCCUPIER																
			Total Number	State of Repair			Amenities Provided								I.G. Received	Premises Lacking all or most amenities			
				Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	Bath or Shower	Wash Hand Basin	Hot Water—Bath	Hot Water—Basin	Hot Water—Sink	Inside W.C.	Sink	Total		O/O Interested in I.G.	Lack of Interest due to		
																	Finance	Other	
NORTHERN AREA																			
Cyril Street. West	29	—	25	25	—	—	24	23	24	21	23	21	24	11	3	2	1	—	
Leslie Avenue	64	2	56	56	—	—	55	55	53	47	54	53	55	11	5	3	1	—	
Railway Street	5	—	5	4	1	—	3	3	3	3	3	5	5	—	2	2	—	—	
TOTAL	98	2	86	85	1	—	82	81	80	71	80	79	84	22	10	7	2	—	
SOUTHERN AREA																			
Church Street	27	—	21	19	1	1	19	19	19	19	20	19	20	11	2	1	1	—	
Eastleigh Road	60	1	48	47	1	—	46	45	43	43	44	44	48	20	5	1	4	—	
Gordon Road	14	—	10	8	2	—	9	8	8	8	8	8	9	2	2	1	1	—	
Queen Street	15	—	8	7	1	—	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	3	—	—	—	—	
Queen's Terrace	6	1	4	4	—	—	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL COMBINED	122	2	91	85	5	1	86	84	82	82	84	83	89	37	9	3	6	—	
TOTALS	220	4	177	170	6	1	168	165	162	153	164	162	173	59	19	10	8	1	

ANALYSIS OF HOUSING SURVEY 1972

TENANTED (Average Rent £2 50p. per week)

Total number	Houses in Multi-Occupation	State of Repair			Amenities Provided							I.G. Received	Premises Lacking all or most amenities				Tenant's Formal Application		
		Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	Bath or Shower	Wash Hand Basin	Hot Water—Bath	Hot Water—Basin	Hot Water—Sink	Inside W.C.	Sink		Total	Tenant interested in I.G.	Lack of Interest due to				
															Finance	Other			
																			NORTHERN AREA
4	—	4	—	—	4	2	4	—	3	2	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	Cyril Street, West	
6	1	4	1	1	6	5	5	5	5	4	5	1	2	2	—	—	—	Leslie Avenue	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Railway Street	
10	1	8	1	1	10	7	9	5	8	6	9	1	3	3	—	—	—	TOTAL	
																			SOUTHERN AREA
6	—	3	3	—	3	2	2	2	2	2	6	—	4	4	—	—	—	Church Street	
11	1	8	3	—	8	8	7	7	8	7	11	2	4	2	1	1	1	Eastleigh Road	
4	—	—	4	—	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	2	1	—	—	Gordon Road	
7	—	4	3	—	5	5	5	5	6	6	7	1	2	—	2	—	—	Queen Street	
1	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	Queen's Terrace	
29	1	16	13	—	18	17	16	16	18	18	27	6	13	8	4	1	1	TOTAL	
39	2	24	14	1	28	24	25	21	26	24	36	7	16	11	4	1	1	COMBINED TOTALS	

NOISE

The importance of noise in our modern society cannot be over-estimated, and this is clearly shown by the attitude of the general public who are becoming increasingly aware of this malignant nuisance which makes an unjustifiable intrusion of a person's peace and comfort, and are looking to the resources of the Health Department for relief. The sources of noise are many and varied, and here in Taunton during the last year we have received complaints concerning such sources as pumps on building sites, loading of lorries in the early morning, exhaust fan in a factory, "music while you work" from another factory, motors on refrigerated lorries, unmuffled pneumatic drills, and the barking of dogs. The total number of complaints was eighteen, but even with this relatively small figure it was found necessary to make over 150 inspections and visits—often late at night or in the early morning. In every instance a satisfactory outcome was achieved without having to resort to statutory action.

During the year a survey was carried out covering the whole borough to ascertain the ambient noise levels in all areas, and a map illustrating the results was produced. It was found that most of the noise was directly attributable to traffic and that the heavy diesel lorries were the worst offenders. Unfortunately we have no responsibility for this sector of the problem, but it is abundantly clear that many vehicles are breaking the current noise level legislation. The Consumers Association in a recent survey estimated that there are probably more than 20,000 breaking the noise law every day.

CLEAN AIR ACT

As this is not a heavy industrial area we are not faced with the same problems as some of our colleagues elsewhere particularly the Midlands and North of England; but we do however have responsibilities to see that any nuisances which may arise are speedily abated, to ensure that new boiler installations are in accordance with the Regulations.

It is our intention in the near future to set up stations to record the sulphur dioxide and smoke content of the air so as to determine whether it is advisable to declare any smokeless areas.

During the year only one application was received in respect of a new boiler installation; and sixty-six visits were made in connection with complaints or to make smoke observations.

RODENT AND OTHER PESTS CONTROL

This has again been a very busy year in the whole field of pest control though the total number of visits which amounted to 2,165 showed a slight decrease from 1971. Unfortunately for us

Mr. L. Wood—our Rodent Operator—who has served the Department so well over the last ten years was taken ill in the early summer and did not return to duty before he retired in November. We have had great difficulty in filling this appointment which requires a person of infinite tact and common sense and is able to work without supervision for most of the time. At the time of writing this report we are still without an Operator, as the two appointments we did make were both short lived and very unsatisfactory. At this stage I would like to thank all those members of the staff who have helped in the work of disinfestation so that we have been able to exercise proper control at all times and without any undue delays.

The number of complaints concerning rodent infestation was 248 and showed little variation from the previous year; but the number relating to mice was twenty more than for rats which indicates a very significant change from the past when rats were always dominant. During the year 169 sewer points were baited with satisfactory results; and it could well be that this systematic and regular treatment is a considerable factor in bringing about the significant decline in the rat population in the Borough.

There were only eighty-eight wasps' nests destroyed compared with the record number of 220 in 1971. This service is provided for the benefit of householders who are unable to deal with the nests themselves, and generally a charge is made to cover cost of materials and time. There were forty-four complaints of other pests including flies, cockroaches, silver fish, carpet beetles, ants and fleas and the appropriate action was taken in each case.

The details of work carried out during the year are as follows :

Treatments at private dwellings	..	..	..	..	400
Visits involved	..	..	..	..	926
Treatments at business premises	..	..	..	..	371
Visits involved	..	..	..	..	754
Treatments at Council premises	..	..	..	..	25
Visits involved	..	..	..	..	73
Survey visits	..	..	..	..	90
Wasps' nests destroyed	..	..	..	..	67
Other vermin etc.	..	..	..	..	28
Treatment of sewers	..	..	..	..	169
Visits involved	..	..	..	..	405
Drain tests	..	..	..	..	6

Disinfection

During the year the steam disinfector which we were able to use at the local hospital went out of use, so we are now faced with the difficult problem of finding alternative facilities. Unfortunately there does not appear to be any such apparatus within a convenient distance of Taunton. It is a debatable point as to

what is the best answer as any new apparatus would be extremely expensive having regard to its limited use, but if any second-hand machine was available it might be worthwhile to install it near the existing swimming baths where there would be a supply of the steam which is necessary for its functioning. On the other hand it could well be more economic to issue new mattresses etc. as and when the occasion arises.

**SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS
SUBJECT TO CONTROL BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.**

Public Health Act 1936—Section 107.

Under this Section various offensive trades require the consent of the Local Authority to operate their businesses. The following schedule gives details of those in the Borough:—

Hide and Skin Depots	..	..	..	..	..	2
Tanners	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rag and Bone Merchants	..	..	..	..	..	2
Fat Extractors etc.	..	..	..	..	..	1

The first ^{three} ~~four~~ have all been operated for many years in a satisfactory manner; but the last named has given rise to some concern due to the escape of noxious odours at certain stages of the processing. The firm concerned are well aware of this and have called in specialists to advise on the best means of abating the nuisance.

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

There is now only one residential site of about 18 vans in the Borough, and this has been conducted satisfactorily. The owner has a continuing programme of improving conditions by gradually replacing the older vans by new and larger ones. The site has all the recommended amenities, and the Fire Officer has given advice on suitable fire-fighting equipment and drill.

There are also three individual sites which are also satisfactory.

During the year 34 inspections and visits were made, and any shortcomings were dealt with by informal action.

The Rag, Flock and Other Materials Act, 1951

There are now only three registered premises in the Borough, and two inspections were made in the year. Periodically samples of material are sent to one of the approved laboratories for analysis.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964.

This Act was primarily brought into being to control the traffic in stolen metals by ensuring that all dealers are registered with the Local Authority who require that proper records of all transactions are kept at all times. Close liaison is maintained with the police authority who are notified of all new registrations and renewals.

Number of registered dealers	7
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Pet Animals Act, 1951

All premises including market stalls from which vertebrates are sold as pets must be inspected and licensed. This is to ensure that the animals are kept under clean and suitable conditions, and receive adequate food and drink. All premises receive periodic visits, and no contraventions were revealed during the year.

Number of licensed premises 3

The Consumer Protection Act, 1961
The Oil Burners (Standards) Act, 1960
The Oil Heaters Regulations, 1962

These Acts and Regulations empower Local Authorities to examine and test oil heaters to ensure conformity to very strict specifications. As the legislation has been effective for over ten years now, it has been found that practically all the manufacturers are turning out heaters of the correct standard. The only places where unsatisfactory heaters are likely to be found are second-rate auctions; or in tenanted property where the letting or hire of an appliance is incidental to the actual letting. In the first of these two cases it is necessary to be fully alert to any such auctions which may take place in the district from time to time so as to prevent any sale taking place; but unfortunately in the case of the lettings no statutory control is possible, so one can only give advice and hope that any warning is heeded.

Sampling of Swimming Bath Water

It is absolutely essential that the water of swimming baths should at all times conform to the very highest standards of cleanliness, and to this end weekly spot checks are made as to the amounts of residual and total chlorine content as well as Ph values. During the year under review two hundred readings were taken, and all were satisfactory. This is indeed an excellent record, which reflects great credit on all the staff of the Baths.

Besides our responsibilities at the public baths advice is also given to operators of private pools on the correct methods of running and purification etc.

Hairdressing Establishments

There are fifty six such establishments in the Borough comprising thirty-six for ladies and twenty for men. They are all controlled by the Bye-laws which were introduced in 1964 to set standards of cleanliness of premises, equipment and personnel; besides which most of them are also subject to the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963. As a result of inspections fourteen contraventions were found and remedied during the year.

FOOD INSPECTION

Visits in connection with the inspection and supervision of foods and food premises : and the sampling of food for bacteriological examination :

Bakers and Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	89
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	265
Dairies and Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	73
Fishmongers and poulterers	..	..	..	..	..	37
Food Preparation Premises	..	..	..	..	..	100
Fried fish premises	..	..	..	..	..	34
Grocers and Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	372
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	146
Market Stalls and Mobile Shops	..	..	..	..	..	67
Restaurants, Cafes and Canteens etc.	..	..	..	..	..	360
Sampling—various foodstuffs	..	..	..	..	..	186
Sampling—sausage agar	..	..	..	..	..	60
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	998*
Wholesale Meat Depots	..	..	..	..	..	90
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	123
Total						3,000

* Includes visits of Meat Inspector

For many years food inspection and all that it implies has been considered to be one of our most important functions, as without it the general public would be at risk from any number of sources. This work has many and varied aspects ranging from the inspection of the raw products through all the stages of preparation, production, distribution, storage to the sale of the finished product in wholesale stores, markets, shops, or catering premises. The quality and production of a vast variety of food are governed by specific regulations and it is our responsibility to see that there is compliance therewith.

All food premises are the subject of regular inspection and during the year over 700 items received attention as a direct result of such visits. Details of these are given in the summary of works carried out, and it will be seen that these besides covering a great variety of defects such as defective structures, poor decoration, lack of cleanliness, inadequate lighting or ventilation; also indicate improvements relating to the proportion of food and the provision of new equipment. Once again it was in the catering premises that most of the work took place, and the importance of constant vigilance in this field is fully appreciated if there is to be no lowering of standards. All matters were rectified by informal action.

Our system of bacteriological control suffered a further setback in addition to the cessation of certain facilities which we formerly enjoyed with the Public Health Laboratory until the end of 1970, due to the manufacturers of "Agar Sausage" giving up production of this extremely useful product. The only foods which we can now get examined are liquid egg and ice cream. We have made strong efforts to find an alternative source of supply for the sausage agar, but so far without success.

During the year there were 122 complaints concerning unsound food and this showed a definite decrease from last year's figure of 192. These complaints not only originated from members of the public; but from occupiers of wholesale and retail businesses who were uncertain as to the fitness of their stock. In these instances where the food was unfit condemnation certificates were issued; but with those members of the public who complained about bad food, each case was thoroughly investigated and where necessary legal proceedings were taken against the offenders.

One of the features of modern living which gives us some cause for concern is the use (or as is quite often the case the misuse) of the home deep freezer. Vast quantities of good sound food are frequently spoilt either aesthetically or bacteriologically by the ignorance of the householder who has failed to appreciate the technical "know-how" essential to the production of good quality frozen food. This can sometimes be directly attributable to the slick patter of an unscrupulous salesman who will tell any tale to con the unsuspecting householder into signing an agreement. Some of the common abuses associated with the use of deep freezers are:—

1. The cooking of meat straight from the deep freezer whereby the centre of any joint remains virtually uncooked and becomes a bacterial hazard.
2. The refreezing of thawed food once or several times which produces not only an unattractive food but again one which could be dangerous bacteriologically.
3. Freezing of good home killed meat directly in the home freezer. To maintain the quality, all such meat should be quick frozen so as to reduce as far as possible the time overlap between the latent heat zone and the formation of ice crystals; so all joints should be purchased from a producer who is able to offer these quick-freezing facilities.
4. Quick freezing is essential with many vegetables which have a sensitive enzyme system that can remain active

Summary of Works carried out at all premises in 1972

	Butchers and Fishmongers	Bakers and Dairies etc.	Grocers and Greengrocers	Catering Establishments	Licensed Premises	Market Stalls etc.	Total
Works of Major Reconstruction	1	1	3	6	3	—	14
Food Rooms							
Walls renewed or repaired ..	1	3	4	28	3	—	39
Walls redecorated	13	13	10	21	21	—	78
Ceilings renewed or repaired ..	—	—	5	14	—	—	19
Ceilings redecorated	6	5	10	15	10	—	46
Floors repaired or renewed ..	1	1	4	18	4	—	28
Improvement of lighting	4	1	3	5	—	—	13
Improvement of ventilation ..	—	2	—	2	2	—	6
Renewed or repaired drainage ..	1	—	—	2	—	—	3
Doors, windows etc. repaired ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Premises cleansed	8	7	1	15	—	—	31
Name and Address displayed ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Equipment, etc.							
New sinks provided	—	1	1	9	2	—	13
Hot water supply provided ..	2	1	1	6	—	—	10
New drainage boards provided ..	—	1	1	9	—	—	11
Preparation tables etc. retopped	4	—	4	25	1	—	34
New equipment etc. provided ..	7	—	2	17	1	—	27
Dustbins provided	2	3	1	13	1	2	22
Means of protection for food provided	27	4	14	27	2	—	74
Refrigerators provided	1	—	1	2	—	—	4
Equipment cleansed	4	—	6	38	1	—	49
Sanitary Accommodation							
New W.C.'s or urinals installed ..	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
New flushing cisterns provided ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Sanitary accommodation repaired	2	1	2	1	1	—	7
Sanitary accommodation redecorated	3	—	3	2	3	—	11
Sanitary Notices fixed	11	5	39	15	1	—	71
Toilet Accommodation							
Wash-hand Basins provided ..	—	3	—	5	6	2	16
Hot water supply provided ..	1	3	1	4	4	2	15
Toilet requisites provided	6	2	4	6	4	2	24
Provision of lockers	—	—	1	3	—	—	4
Miscellaneous							
Protective clothing provided ..	3	—	1	4	—	—	8
Treatment of infestations	6	4	—	6	—	—	16
Provision of first-aid materials ..	2	—	4	6	—	2	14
Totals ..	117	60	123	318	72	12	702

as low as 14 degs. F—and to disregard this can result in unsightly and poor tasting products.

5. If meat, poultry and fish are stored too long there can be a hydrolytic splitting of the fats inducing rancidity.
6. Over storage of fish causes protein deterioration giving one a tough and unpalatable food.

It must be appreciated that we have no control over such matters; but we do strongly recommend that any would-be purchasers of deep freezers study one of the many admirable guide books on the subject and so avoid what could be an expensive lesson through spoilage of initially sound food.

SPECIAL TYPES OF PREMISES SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION

Milk Supply

The number of registered Dairies remains at eight, and as a result of several additions and redundancies the total of Distributors of Milk stands at 42. The main responsibility for milk production, distribution and sampling lies with the County Council who send us regular reports of their sampling results. Our responsibility is connected solely with regulations relating to the food hygiene aspects of those premises which sell milk.

Ice Cream

There were five new registrations for premises to be used for the storage and sale of ice cream; and several of the existing registrations lapsed, so that the totals are now as follows:—

Manuafacture and sale	..	..	..	..	..	2
Storage and sale	..	..	..	..	..	110
Storage	..	..	..	..	..	1

Food Preparation Premises

Those premises where sausages are prepared or manufactured or other food is potted, pressed, pickled or preserved and is intended for sale must, in order to conform to Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955, be registered with the local authority. It will be appreciated that as preservation includes the cooking of meat and fish a considerable number of premises fall within this category; and it naturally forms a very useful instrument in the control of possible food poisoning etc. There were no new registrations during the year and the total of such premises is 54.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

This field of activity which forms so important an instrument in the control of hygienic standards throughout all the various aspects of the food business has again been restricted by the Public Health Laboratory only accepting ice cream and liquid egg for examination. Our means of control was even further curtailed when the manufacturers of Sausage Agar ceased production; but we did however manage a few samples at the beginning of the year with our remaining stock.

Ice Cream

During the year 81 samples of ice cream were taken, comprising 71 hot mix, 4 cold and 6 soft ice creams. It is disappointing to record that some of the results especially those relating to the hot mix were unsatisfactory. Practically all these involved one producer and after exhaustive tests and investigation the cause was found to be due to improper temperature control at the ice cream distributor's depot. Afterwards numerous check examination gave good results. The other poor results were due to slackness in cleaning procedures which were rectified after informal action by the Public Health Inspectors.

Details are as follows:—

			Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Hot Mix	..	..	45	13	8	5
Cold Mix	..	..	3	—	1	—
Soft Ice Cream		..	3	—	2	1

Liquid Egg

In Taunton there is a modern factory producing liquid egg, and in recent years the breaking has become almost exclusively mechanical so that there has been a great decrease in the number of employees without any falling off in production. Other plant includes machines for pulverising the shells and extracting the remaining egg, and a pasteurising system.

During the year numerous samples are taken of raw egg and albumen principally for the detection of salmonella infection, and of pasteurised egg to check the efficiency of the processing procedure. During the year a total of 89 samples was taken comprising 43 of raw albumen, 27 of raw whole egg and 19 of pasteurised and all were satisfactory.

Water

Regular sampling of the water supplies takes place throughout the year. In addition to samples from the mains supply in the Borough, samples are taken of raw and treated water at the Fulwood Works, and from a private borehole. These samples comprised a total of 197 with 159 from the mains supply, 26 of raw water, and 12 from the borehole. All were satisfactory.

River Water Survey

Only three such samples were examined by the Public Analyst. The main objective purpose being to ascertain the degree of organic pollution attributable to farming activities or inefficient sewage treatment and inorganic pollution (including heavy metals) from pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers or any industrial or private processes which are adjacent to or liable to contaminate the river at any point along its course. The results revealed no significant pollution and could be considered satisfactory.

AGAR SAUSAGE SAMPLING

As indicated elsewhere in this report we were only able to sample a very limited number of items due to the close down of the firm producing this product. This has left a gap in our chain of control that will be difficult to make good. Such sampling served a dual purpose as it gave us an easy and reliable indication of any shortcomings in the production or cleaning techniques of any particular food premises; while at the same time we were able to show the occupier of those premises in a very demonstrable manner just where his methods were giving cause for concern. The total of samples taken was 58, and of these 22 were negative, 26 were slight, 7 medium and 3 heavy which shows that there is room for improvement in a number of instances, but nevertheless indicates a very great improvement on last year's figures.

The details are as follows:—

<i>Item</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Slight</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Heavy</i>
Boiler	—	1	—	—
Bowls	3	1	1	—
Bucket	—	1	—	—
Chopping block	—	1	—	—
Cups	1	2	—	—
Dish (vegetable)	2	—	—	—
Finger	1	—	—	—
Forks (table)	1	4	—	—
Glass	—	1	—	—
Ham press	—	—	—	2
Jug (metal)	1	—	—	—
Jug (plastic)	1	—	—	—
Knives	1	5	1	—
Knife rack	—	—	—	1
Lids	2	1	—	—
Mixing machine	1	—	—	—
Mixing machine attachment	—	—	1	—
Plates	2	—	—	—
Refrigerator interior	—	1	—	—
Saucer	1	—	—	—
Saucepan	1	—	2	—
Soup bowl	—	1	—	—
Spoons	3	3	—	—
Strainer	1	1	—	—
Table tops	—	1	1	—
Towel	—	—	1	—
Tray (baking)	—	1	—	—
Whisk	—	1	—	—
Totals	22	26	7	3

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

During the year legal proceedings were instituted either under the main Act or Regulations made thereunder. Most originated

as the result of complaints made by members of the purchasing public, who seem to be more aware of what quality standards to expect from the food trade, some of whose members appear to show an unwarranted indifference to genuine complaints. In a great number of cases complaints are dealt with informally, and it is only a small proportion which ever reach the Courts. Details of such cases are as follows:—

OFFENCES						RESULT
1.	Sale of decomposing chicken	..	..	..	..	£30 fine
2.	Piece of string in a loaf of bread	..	..	..	..	£20 fine
3.	Sale of mouldy sausages	..	..	..	..	£10 fine
4.	Sale of unsound chicken	..	..	..	..	£20 fine
5.	Exposing mouldy bread for sale	..	..	..	..	£20 fine
6.	Sale of mouldy cheese..	..	..	..	..	£15 fine
7.	Use of tobacco whilst handling food	..	..	..	..	£20 fine
8.	Failing to wear head and neck covering whilst carry meat	..	..	..	..	£20 fine

Food Inspection

As a result of inspection of food at food shops and warehouses, the following commodities were condemned:

TINNED GOODS					FROZEN FOODS				
Soup	..	..	193	tins	Meat products	..	333	pkts.	
Baked beans	..	..	127	"	Fish products	..	787	"	
Vegetables	..	..	478	"	Peas	..	586	"	
Peas	..	..	213	"	Other vegetables	..	686	"	
Fruit	..	..	980	"	Fruit	..	23	"	
Fruit juice	..	..	165	"	Fruit juice	..	10	"	
Meat	..	..	147	"	Cakes	..	65	"	
Ham	..	..	26	"	Pastry	..	85	"	
Corned beef	..	..	42	"	Pies	..	91	"	
Fish	..	..	78	"	Chips	..	188	"	
Spaghetti	..	..	37	"	Mousse	..	21	"	
Milk pudding	..	..	83	"	Ice-cream	..	383	"	
Milk, cream	..	..	28	"					
Baby food	..	..	79	"					

OTHER FOODS									
Butter	..	..	5	lbs.	Coffee	..	32	jars	
Margarine	..	..	8	"	Pickle etc.	..	116	"	
Cheese	..	..	122	"	Jam, syrup	..	57	"	
Sugar	..	..	26	"	Dried peas etc.	..	27	pkts.	
Flour	..	..	193	"	Salt	..	76	"	
Liquid egg	..	..	267	"	Nuts.	..	134	"	
Sausages	..	..	38	"	Cereals	..	54	"	
Bacon	..	..	148	"	Dried fruit	..	31	"	
Cooked meat	..	..	133	"	Rice etc.	..	58	"	
Chicken	..	..	48	"	Biscuits	..	112	"	
Fish	..	..	313	"	Sweets	..	822	"	
Carrots	..	..	1	ton 10 cwt	Tea	..	6	"	
Potatoes	..	..	3	ton	Custard	..	9	"	
Pies	..	..	57		Miscellaneous	..	125	"	
Eggs	..	..	15	doz.					

MEAT INSPECTION

There are two private slaughterhouses in the Borough where only a few animals are killed to meet the demands of the associated retail butchers' shops; and a large bacon factory with a throughput in excess of 70,000 pigs per year. This last is very demanding on the time of the Department as the rate of kill is approximately 120 pigs per hour, and this necessitates the full time attendance of one of the Public Health Inspectors besides the Meat Inspector whilst slaughtering takes place.

The quality of the cattle and sheep has again been high; and apart from two cases of localised cysticercus bovis which entailed the temperature control treatment of the two bullocks, nothing untoward was found other than minor localised conditions, mainly liver flukes. As regards pigs the number of whole carcasses condemned dropped significantly from 155 to 82, and the incidence of T.B. was again low at 1.55% of the total of all condemnations. The bulk of the condemnations were due to pleurisy and other conditions which were almost exclusive to the offals.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year:

Beasts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	136
Cows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Sheep and Lambs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	801
Calves	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	71,877
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72,819

The inspection of the above carcasses revealed diseases as set out in the following table:

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	136	5	—	801	71 877
Number inspected	136	5	—	801	71,877
Whole carcasses condemned for disease other than T.B.	—	—	—	—	82
Carcases from which some part or organ was condemned	20	—	—	11	17,629
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	13.69%	—	—	1.37%	24.51%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases from which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	1,091
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	—	—	—	—	1.55%
Cysticercus Bovis—					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases subjected to treatment by refrigeration	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

In addition, the following meat was condemned at butchers' premises on account of bone taint and other causes:

Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	397 lbs.
Lamb	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	314 „
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	218 „
Offal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24 „

METEOROLOGICAL READINGS

The story of the weather in 1972 is an average one of un-exceptional mediocrity. The only "highlights" if they can be described as such were the total of hours of sunshine in June which fell to the very poor low of 126.75 which is almost a hundred hours below average ; and the heavy rainfall of 5.28 inches in December was about two inches over the average and three times that of the previous December's.

The general level of barometric pressures were below average in the first half of the year with an exceptionally low average of 29.68 in February, but after July they were all above average with August at 30.09 being the highest average. The lowest reading of 28.84 occurred in March and the highest of 30.60 in November.

The rainfall would have been below average but for the high amount recorded in December which brought the total to 30.67 inches so topping the annual average by about 1.5 inches. Apart from a daily fall of 1.31 inches on December 1st there were no other heavy falls in excess of an inch. The total number of days on which rain fell was 149—26 below average ; but February with nineteen was the highest for a single month, and June with five was the lowest. The number of days on which the daily fall exceeded .04 inches was 112 and 12 below the average ; and again February with 17 days was the highest month.

The annual average temperature showed little deviation from the normal. June was much colder than usual and the average of 53.60 was significantly below the average of 58.17 and about 4 degrees below the readings for 1971. The highest daily temperature was 78 recorded on July 17th and the lowest 13 on January 30th.

The total hours of sunshine for the year was 1,477 which is about 80 below average and is due largely to the poor record in June as mentioned previously. April with 201 hours was the highest monthly figure being about 50 above normal. All the other months showed very little variations from the average, and the highest daily reading of 13.50 occurred in April. The total number of sunless days was 79—about 12 more than usual—but 54 were in the four months from November to February.

The figures below set out the main readings for 1972 as compared with those in the previous year and the annual averages.

	Mean Barometer	Mean Temperature	Hours of Sunshine	Sunless Days	Total Rainfall	Days rain fell	Days of .04 inches rain or more
1972	29.93	49.09	1,477.06	79	30.67	149	112
1971	29.99	50.56	1,678.50	86	26.25	127	93
Average	29.93	49.61	1,553.73	67	29.06	176	124

METEOROLOGICAL READINGS FOR 1972

Month	Barometer			Thermometer			Sunshine			Rainfall			
	Mean	Max.	Min.	Mean	Max.	Min.	Hours	Maximum Reading	Sunless Days	Inches	Days Rain Fell	Days of .04" or more	Max. Reading
JANUARY	29.78	30.29	29.10	39.79	54	13	47.50	6.00	15	3.78	17	16	0.64
FEBRUARY	29.68	30.20	29.14	41.29	51	27	57.50	7.25	14	4.35	19	17	0.64
MARCH	29.82	30.34	28.84	44.50	66	25	147.75	9.25	4	2.61	12	10	0.58
APRIL	29.88	30.31	29.14	48.53	62	32	201.00	13.50	1	2.00	12	11	0.35
MAY	29.88	30.50	29.51	50.11	64	32	163.00	11.75	3	2.59	18	12	0.50
JUNE	29.90	30.15	29.68	53.60	67	37	126.75	12.50	3	2.60	14	9	0.73
JULY	30.08	30.39	29.66	61.87	78	43	193.00	12.75	5	0.72	5	5	0.21
AUGUST	30.09	30.39	29.42	59.73	77	39	189.75	11.75	1	0.56	6	4	0.27
SEPTEMBER	30.17	30.44	29.62	53.42	72	32	149.25	9.25	1	0.92	5	4	0.69
OCTOBER	30.05	30.49	29.57	50.47	67	29	89.75	9.25	7	1.61	9	6	0.77
NOVEMBER	29.98	30.60	29.03	43.08	58	24	74.50	6.00	10	3.65	16	13	0.61
DECEMBER	29.94	30.56	29.22	42.68	57	24	37.25	5.25	15	5.28	16	15	1.31
TOTAL	29.93	—	—	49.09	—	—	1,477.00	—	79	30.67	149	112	

Ave. Meteorological Readings at Taunton 1919 to 1972

BAROMETER				TEMPERATURE				degs. F.
Annual Average				..	29.93			
June	..	..	..	29.99	Annual Average	..	49.61	
July	..	..	..	29.98	July	..	..	61.58
February	..	..	..	29.96	August	..	..	60.72
September	..	..	..	29.95	June	..	..	58.17
August	..	..	..	29.95	September	..	..	56.70
March	..	..	..	29.94	May	..	..	52.57
October	..	..	..	29.94	October	..	..	50.89
May	..	..	..	29.92	April	..	..	47.38
April	..	..	..	29.91	November	..	..	44.27
December	..	..	..	29.90	March	..	..	43.31
November	..	..	..	29.88	December	..	..	40.98
January	..	..	..	29.87	January	..	..	40.25
					February	..	..	40.11

Hours of Sunshine					Number of Sunless Days				
Annual Average		..	1553.73		Annual Average		..	66.61	
June	..	..	..	218.06	July	..	..	..	1.42
May	..	..	..	205.26	August	..	..	..	1.60
July	..	..	..	204.41	June	..	..	..	1.68
August	..	..	..	186.53	May	..	..	..	1.98
April	..	..	..	152.51	September	..	..	..	3.00
September	..	..	..	131.20	April	..	..	..	3.02
March	..	..	..	118.03	October	..	..	..	4.55
October	..	..	..	102.15	March	..	..	..	5.29
February	..	..	..	75.19	February	..	..	..	8.18
November	..	..	..	61.59	November	..	..	..	9.57
January	..	..	..	45.83	January	..	..	..	13.54
December	..	..	..	39.67	December	..	..	..	14.04

Average Meteorological Readings at Taunton 1919 to 1972

RAINFALL				NUMBER OF DAYS RAIN FELL			
			<i>inches</i>				<i>days</i>
Annual Average	..	..	29.06	Annual Average	..	..	176.13
November	..	..	3.39	December	..	..	18.04
December	..	..	3.14	January	..	..	17.46
January	..	..	3.10	November	..	..	17.29
October	..	..	2.85	October	..	..	15.79
September	..	..	2.41	August	..	..	13.94
May	..	..	2.36	September	..	..	13.87
August	..	..	2.29	February	..	..	13.87
July	..	..	2.16	April	..	..	13.70
February	..	..	2.14	May	..	..	13.61
April	..	..	2.01	March	..	..	13.09
March	..	..	1.94	July	..	..	13.04
June	..	..	1.69	June	..	..	11.24

DAYS OF RAINFALL OF .04 INCHES OR MORE

			<i>days</i>
Annual Average	..	..	124.50
December	..	..	12.84
November	..	..	12.64
January	..	..	12.48
October	..	..	11.18
May	..	..	10.50
September	..	..	9.84
August	..	..	9.82
February	..	..	9.80
April	..	..	9.60
March	..	..	8.92
July	..	..	8.82
June	..	..	8.00

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

It is very difficult to describe in a few words the work that this Act stimulates. If it is to achieve its objectives it requires a high degree of meticulous skill from the inspecting staff coupled with efficient clerical backing at the office. Some idea of its complexity can be gained from the fact that there are over 600 registered premises in the borough with a total of 7,300 employees. There is an infinite variety in the types of places of employment—each with its own particular characteristics and associated problems; and at the same time there is a constant change in either the occupants or type of business in a proportion of the total number of premises.

All premises are given a very detailed initial inspection shortly after registration and thereafter receive a full inspection every two years or more often if deemed necessary.

During the year there were 32 new registrations and a number of the old ones dropped out of business. There were 615 visits to all types of premises and this total included 116 general inspections. Full details are given in the various tables appended to this report.

As a result of the inspections, 395 items were found needing attention. As might be expected after several years of visiting, the number of items relating to structures and fixtures and fittings has decreased considerably. The item attracting most attention has been that concerned with safety in all its many guises ranging from worn staircarpet to unguarded slicing machines and from defective lifts to unstable shelving. That the government is fully aware of this hazard to workers is reflected in the statutory obligations of all employers to report accidents to their Local Authority, who have duty to investigate them and if necessary take legal proceedings against those responsible. During the year 17 such accidents were reported and, after investigation, it was found necessary to make recommendations in only two cases. Other matters on which it has been found necessary to take action have been lack of cleanliness, insufficient heating, lack of first aid materials and control of common parts, such as landings and staircases.

There was only one prosecution during the year and this related to dirty premises. The court imposed a fine of £25. In all other instances the necessary compliance was achieved by informal action.

During the year informal notices were served in respect of 395 items requiring attention in order to secure conformity with the Act.

These items are as detailed in the schedule below :

Type of premises	Sanitary Accommodation								Washing Facilities							
	Ventilation	Lighting	Cleanliness	Identification	Additional Accommodation	Door Fastenings	Unsuitable accommodation, discontinue use	Renew fittings	Ventilation	Lighting	Cleanliness	Toilet Requisites	Renew fittings	Hot water supply	Additional Accommodation	Drinking water
Shops	5	5	23	—	2	3	—	1	3	3	17	5	2	8	2	—
Offices	1	1	8	1	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Catering Premises	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Wholesale Warehouses	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	6	7	35	4	3	4	—	3	3	4	23	6	2	8	2	2

Other Items																
Cleanliness	Overcrowding	Seating facilities	Staircases, floors, passages	Temperatures	Ventilation	Lighting	Accommodation for clothing	Machinery	First Aid	Safety	Abstract of Act	Waste Bins	Registration	Unsuitable accommodation, discontinue use	Noise	
24	—	3	25	25	6	6	7	—	19	44	10	—	7	4	—	259
5	—	1	10	6	4	14	3	—	6	8	4	—	—	1	—	79
5	—	1	10	—	2	3	1	—	3	5	3	2	—	1	—	45
—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	12
34	—	5	47	31	12	24	11	—	28	58	17	3	7	6	—	395

TABLE A	(1) Class of premises	(2) Number of premises newly registered during the year	(3) Total number of registered premises at end of year	(4) Number of registered premises receiving one or more general Inspections during the year
REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS	Offices	5	205	30
	Retail shops	20	317	46
	Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	3	33	11
	Catering establishments open to the public. Canteens	4	42	29
	Fuel storage Depots	—	4	—
	TOTALS.. .. .	32	601	116
TABLE B				
Number of visits of all kinds (including General Inspections) to Registered Premises				.. 615
TABLE C	(1) Class of Workplace		(2) Number of Persons employed	
	Offices .. .. .	.. .. .	3,509	
	Retail Shops .. .. .	.. .. .	2,826	
	Wholesale Departments, Warehouses .. .. .	.. .. .	369	
	Catering Establishments open to the public .. .. .	.. .. .	557	
	Canteens .. .. .	.. .. .	16	
	Fuel Storage Depots .. .. .	.. .. .	35	
TOTAL			7,312	
TOTAL MALES			3,064	
TOTAL FEMALES			4,248	

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes as to provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	15 17	10	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	225	525	2	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	4	—	—
TOTAL	243	539	2	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	2	1	—	2	—

OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list	Section 133		Section 134	
		No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel	100	—	—	—	—

Outworkers are employed by large factories, and work is carried out in the homes of employees. The system has many advantages both for the employer and worker, as the former does not have to provide any accommodation and the worker can pick his own time when to work. However, powers are necessary to control working conditions so as to ensure equal standards to those in the factories themselves, and to safeguard against the spread of infectious diseases.



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